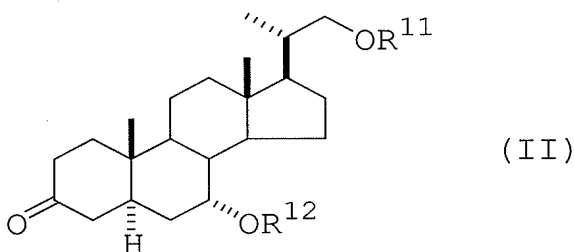


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

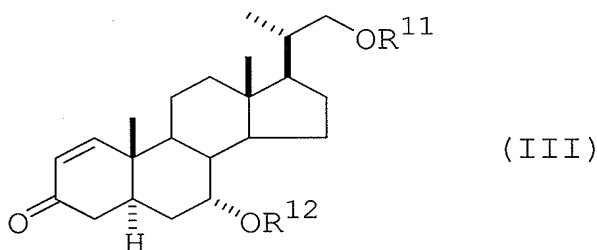
1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a mixture of a 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (II):



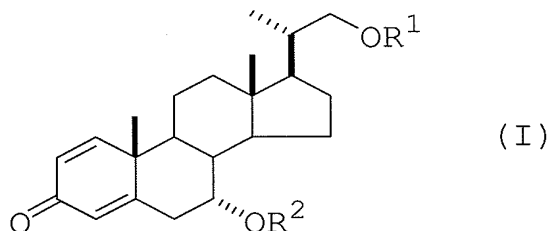
wherein R^{11} and R^{12} are each independently a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group,

and

a 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (III):



wherein R^{11} and R^{12} are as defined above, which comprises reacting a pregnane derivative represented by the formula (I):

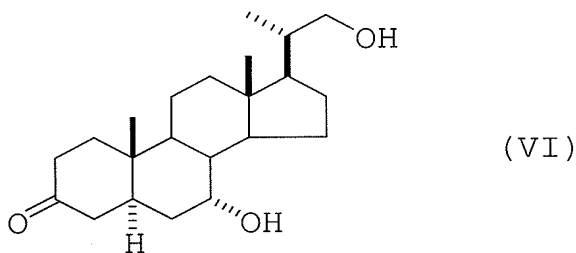


wherein R^1 is a hydroxyl-protecting group and R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group,

with a metal selected from alkali metals and alkaline earth metals in the presence of a proton donor and an amine and/or ammonia,

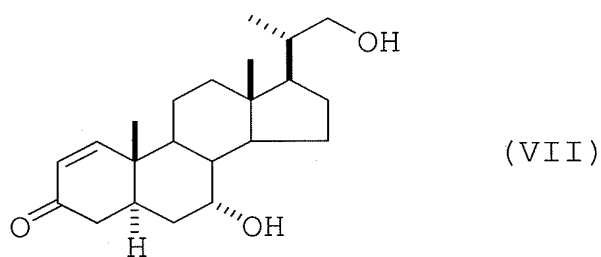
wherein the metal is present in an amount of 0.8 to 2.5 times the amount necessary for reducing the carbon-carbon double bond at the 4,5-positions of the compound represented by the formula (I).

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein R^2 and R^{12} are hydrogen atoms.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein R^1 and R^{11} are tri-substituted silyl groups having three, same or different, substituents selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkoxyl group optionally having substituent(s) and an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s).
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein R^1 and R^{11} are tert-butyldimethylsilyl groups.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the metal is an alkali metal.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.
7. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a mixture of (20S)-7 α ,21-dihydroxy-20-methyl-5 α -pregn-3-one represented by the formula (VI):



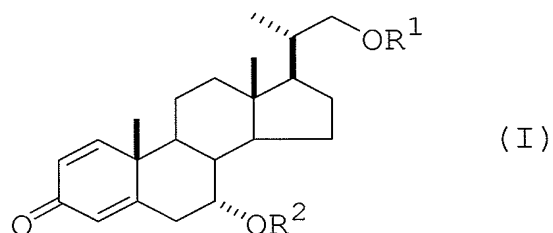
and

(20S)-7 α ,21-dihydroxy-20-methyl-5 α -pregn-1-en-3-one represented by the formula (VII):



which comprises the steps of

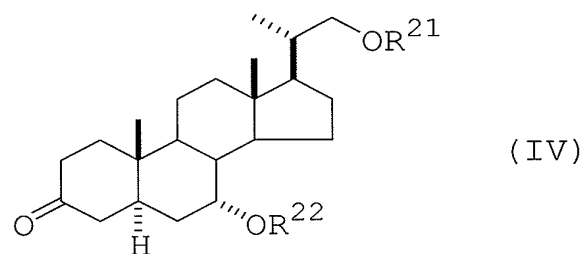
(a) reacting a pregnane derivative represented by the formula (I):



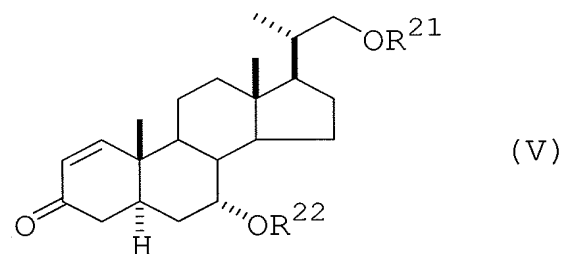
wherein R^1 is a hydroxyl-protecting group and R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, with a metal selected from alkali metals and alkaline earth metals in the presence of a proton donor and an amine and/or ammonia,

wherein the metal is present in an amount of 0.8 to 2.5 times the amount necessary for reducing the carbon-carbon double bond at the 4,5-positions of the compound represented by the formula (I),

to give a mixture of a 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (IV):



wherein R^{21} is a hydroxyl-protecting group and R^{22} is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, and a 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (V):



wherein R^{21} and R^{22} are as defined above; and

(b) eliminating the hydroxyl-protecting groups of the mixture obtained by the aforementioned step.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein R^2 and R^{22} are hydrogen atoms.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein R^1 and R^{21} are tri-substituted silyl groups having three, same or different, substituents selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkoxyl group optionally having substituent(s) and an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s).

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein R^1 and R^{21} are tert-butyldimethylsilyl groups.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the metal is an alkali metal.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the metal is an alkali metal.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the metal is an alkali metal.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the metal is an alkali metal.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the metal is an alkali metal.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the metal is an alkali metal.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the metal is an alkali metal.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.